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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

BIG NEWS
US Congress starts new session
p2

ALL ABOUT
Celebrating 100 years of Disney
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READING
Check out this month's book pick
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THE WEEK Junior Book Club

January 20, 2023 • Vol. 4, Issue 143 • $5.99

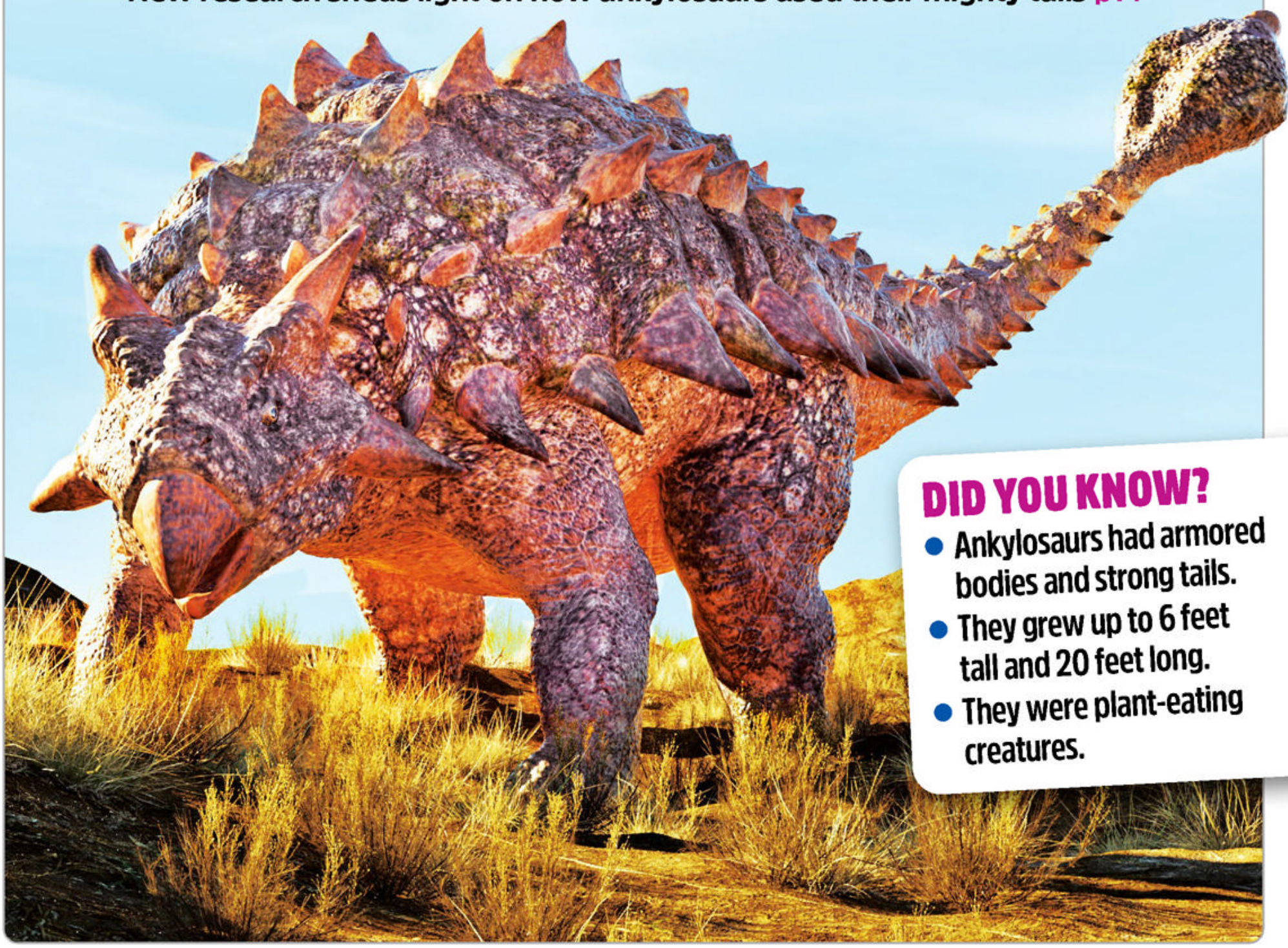
Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

DINO POWER

New research sheds light on how ankylosaurs used their mighty tails p14



DID YOU KNOW?

- Ankylosaurs had armored bodies and strong tails.
- They grew up to 6 feet tall and 20 feet long.
- They were plant-eating creatures.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first woman to serve in the US House of Representatives was Jeannette Rankin of Montana, who took office in 1917.

Representative Kevin McCarthy (middle front) after he was elected Speaker of the House

The first Speaker

Frederick Muhlenberg

Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania was elected the first Speaker of the House on April 1, 1789. A Lutheran minister, he had experience as the presiding officer of the Pennsylvania legislature. He also helped balance out the new government, which was mostly made up of men from the South or New England.

New session of Congress begins

On January 3, lawmakers gathered in Washington, DC, for the start of the 118th session of Congress (branch of government that makes laws). Congress is divided into two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. For the next two years, Democrats will control the Senate and Republicans will control the House.

What is happening in the Senate?

Vice President Kamala Harris swore in new and returning senators, including the majority leader, Chuck Schumer of New York. Patty Murray of Washington was elected president pro tempore, becoming the first woman to hold the position. That is the second highest-ranking job in the Senate, after the Vice President. The job typically goes to the most senior member of the Senate, which is Senator Dianne Feinstein of California, but she declined to take the role. Murray has served in the Senate since 1993.

The US Capitol, where Congress meets

What is happening in the House?

On January 3, Democrats celebrated minority leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who became the first Black lawmaker to lead a major political party in Congress. On the same day, members began voting for Speaker of the House, who leads the House of Representatives and is traditionally a member of the majority party. To win, a candidate needs the support of more than half of the representatives who vote for a specific person. Electing a Speaker usually takes one round of voting because party members agree on a leader in advance. Most of the 222 Republicans supported Kevin McCarthy of California, who was previously the minority leader. But in a rare turn of events, 21 Republicans refused to vote for McCarthy unless he agreed to certain demands. These included changing the process of deciding how government funds are used and enacting a rule allowing a single member to call a vote to remove him as Speaker. Republicans argued, negotiated, and voted again and again over the course of several days. Finally, on the 15th vote, McCarthy was elected on January 7 by a count of 216–212.

Why is the Speaker vote significant?

It has been 100 years since the last dispute over who would become Speaker, when Republicans voted nine times to elect their leader in 1923. Prior to that, House members voted 133 times to elect a Speaker in 1856, when the nation was divided over the issue of slavery. Without a Speaker, members of the House can't be sworn in or do their work, including passing laws, appointing committees, and holding hearings.

How have people reacted?

After his election, McCarthy smiled and waved the Speaker's gavel. "Don't judge us on how we start, watch how we finish," he said. President Joe Biden, a Democrat, said, "The American people expect their leaders to govern in a way that puts their needs above all else, and that is what we need to do now." Some Republicans expressed concern that McCarthy made too many compromises and that disagreements among House Republicans would make it difficult to pass legislation during the session. Republican Matt Gaetz of Florida, who was the final holdout against McCarthy, said, "I am grateful that… McCarthy has been so receptive to each and every change that we have demanded."

What will happen next?

House members who were officially sworn in after McCarthy was elected will now be able to start working. Their first order of business was to refine and pass the rules that McCarthy and other Republicans negotiated during the voting process. After a break, the Senate will return to work on January 23.

Stolen artifact returns to Egypt

An ancient wooden sarcophagus (coffin) displayed at the Houston Museum of Natural Science (HMNS) in Texas was returned to Egypt on January 2, after it was found to have been stolen years ago. The move was part of the Egyptian government's efforts to stop the trafficking (illegal buying and selling) of stolen goods.

Known as the Green Coffin, for its painted top, the sarcophagus (pronounced saar-KAH-fuh-guhs) dates as far back as 332 BCE and is believed to have belonged to an Egyptian priest named Ankhenmaat. Officials had determined that it was stolen from a tomb in northern Egypt and smuggled through Germany into the US in 2008.

The handover took place in a ceremony in Cairo, Egypt's capital. Egypt has been working to bring home antiquities taken from the country. In 2021, 5,300 stolen artifacts were returned to Egypt from around the world. A spokesperson for HMNS said the museum was not involved in the removal of the Green Coffin from its tomb and supports returning stolen artifacts to their country of origin.

The Green Coffin

Pelé with some of his many medals

Soccer legend celebrated

In early January, the world paid tribute to soccer legend Edson Arantes do Nascimento, known as Pelé, who died on December 29 at age 82. Considered one of the greatest players in the history of the sport, he was a hero in his home country, Brazil, and helped make soccer popular globally.

Pelé was born in 1940 and spent his early years playing soccer barefoot with a ball made of socks stuffed with rags. He joined the Brazilian team Santos at age 15 and became known for his grace, flair, and speed. He led Brazil to its first World Cup victory in 1958, at age 17, then again in 1962 and 1970. He is the only player in history to win three World Cups. After retiring, Pelé served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Children's Fund and a UNESCO Champion for Sport.

After Pelé's death, Brazil held an official three-day period of mourning. An estimated 230,000 people—including the nation's president—paid their respects to his casket at Santos stadium. People lined the streets for miles as the casket was carried through the city, past the house where Pelé's 100-year-old mother still lives.

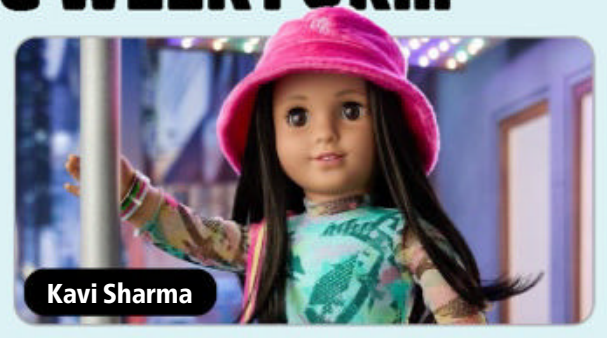
FIFA, soccer's governing body, flew flags at its offices at half-mast in Pelé's honor. Teams around the world celebrated him with moments of silence or applause, flowers on the field, and black armbands. "Pelé changed everything," Brazilian soccer player Neymar said. "He transformed [the sport] into art, entertainment." Former US President Barack Obama said Pelé "understood the power of sports to bring people together."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A COLD-WEATHER RESCUE

Wildlife expert Mary Warwick rescued 1,500 bats who nearly died after temperatures in Houston, Texas, dropped below freezing. Warwick gathered the bats by hand and kept them warm and fed in her attic until temperatures rose.

A bat in Texas


Kavi Sharma

THE GIRL OF THE YEAR

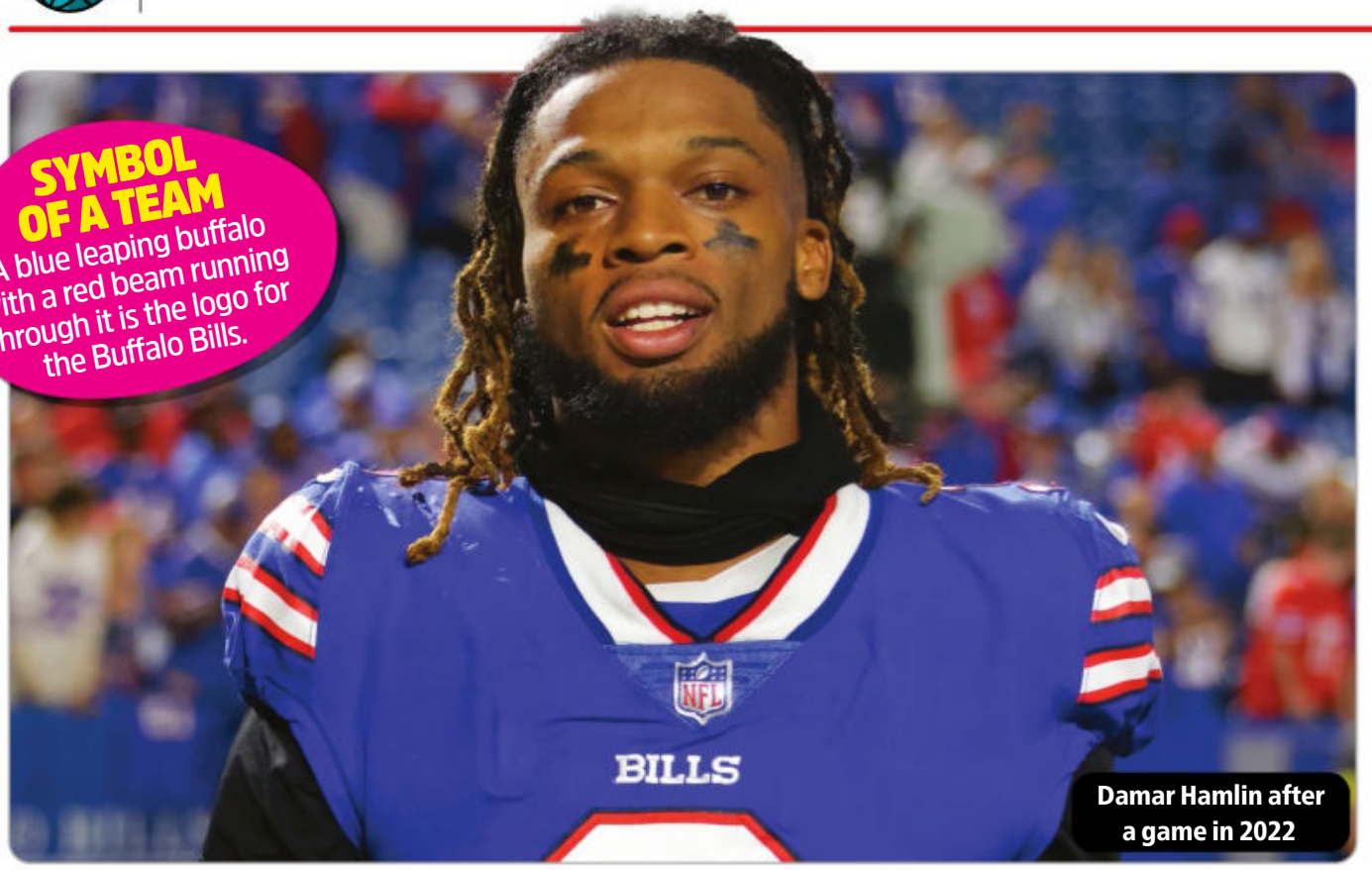
An American Girl doll named Kavika "Kavi" Sharma is the first South Asian doll to be named Girl of the Year. The company said Kavi lives in New Jersey, loves Broadway shows, practices the Hindu religion, and "shares her culture in meaningful ways with her friends and classmates."

SHARING A LOVE OF READING

Two sets of teen sisters have sent 60,000 books to children in Nigeria and Ghana, Africa, where access to books is limited. Azzarrée and Amirrah Uwhubetine and Eline and Sedi Asase grew up in Africa and now live in the US. Their nonprofit, the Child2Child Book Foundation, shares "books that can essentially change [kids'] lives," Amirrah said.

The sisters with kids in Africa

ON THE COVER: GETTY IMAGES (3); NETFLIX; ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; AP; AMERICAN GIRL; ALAMY; CHILD2CHILD BOOK FOUNDATION; ON THE LEFT PAGE; KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES; GETTY IMAGES (2)



SYMBOL OF A TEAM
A blue leaping buffalo with a red beam running through it is the logo for the Buffalo Bills.

Damar Hamlin after a game in 2022

Hero on the field

Denny Kellington

Denny Kellington, a Buffalo Bills trainer, was credited for taking the quick action that saved Damar Hamlin's life. He was the first to perform CPR (chest compressions). Bills coach Sean McDermott said Kellington's actions were "nothing short of amazing." The entire on-field medical staff was remarkable, doctors said.

Nation rallies to support Damar Hamlin

Damar Hamlin, a player for the Buffalo Bills in the National Football League (NFL), is making a positive recovery after collapsing on the field during a game against the Cincinnati Bengals on January 2. On January 9, he was stable enough to be transferred from a hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio, to Buffalo General Medical Center in New York.

What happened to Hamlin?

During the first quarter of the game, Hamlin, age 24, made a tackle, got back on his feet, then fell to the ground. He experienced what doctors later said was cardiac arrest, which is when a person's heart stops. After a medical team treated him on the field, he was taken to a hospital and put on a ventilator to receive oxygen. He spoke on January 5 and began breathing on his own on January 6.

How did the NFL react?

The league ended the game after Hamlin collapsed. They announced on January 6 that the game would not be rescheduled. "This has been a very difficult week," NFL commissioner Roger Goodell said. On January 8, the final day of the NFL regular season, players and coaches from all 32 teams wore "Love for Damar 3" T-shirts during pre-game warm-ups "in a league-wide show of support for Damar," Goodell said. (Hamlin wears the #3 jersey for Buffalo.) Bills players also wore a special "3" patch. Before the Bills kicked off at home against the New England Patriots that day, members of the Bills medical staff who treated Hamlin on the field were honored. The Bills defeated the Patriots, 35–23, as Hamlin watched the game from his hospital bed.

How did the nation react?

Millions of people across the US responded with an outpouring of support. Social media was flooded with messages of hope, and donations to Hamlin's charity, Chasing M's, which began as a toy drive for children in his hometown of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, exceeded $8.7 million. US cities lit their skylines in Buffalo Bills blue. People left flowers, balloons, and posters outside the hospital in Cincinnati.

What will happen next?

Doctors will closely monitor Hamlin for several days to make sure he continues to heal. Tests will also be conducted to try to determine why the cardiac arrest happened. The Bills will face the Miami Dolphins in the first round of the playoffs on January 15.

WORD OF THE WEEK

SARCOPHAGUS

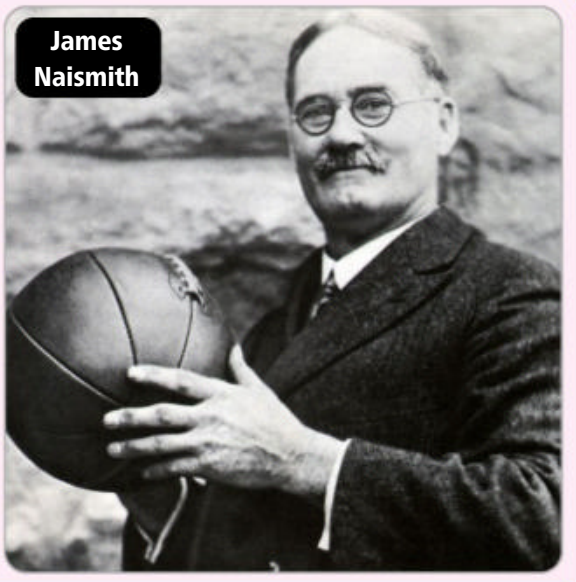
This word for an ancient coffin began with the Greek words *lithos sarkophagos*, meaning "flesh-eating stone." Ancient civilizations believed that a certain type of limestone would dissolve human flesh, which is why they thought it was a good material for making coffins. Sarcophagi were also often highly decorated.

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

January 15, 1892

The game of basketball is created

On January 15, 1892, the sport of basketball began when its inventor, James Naismith, posted his 13 original rules of how the game should be played. Naismith, an instructor at Springfield College in Massachusetts, was asked to come up with an indoor game students could play during the cold New England winters. Today more than 450 million people worldwide play basketball.



James Naismith

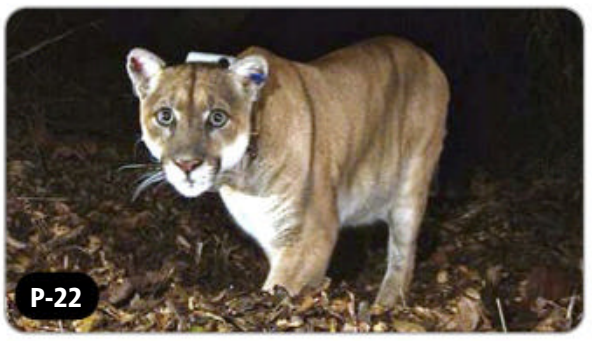
Roads are flooded.

Severe storms strike California

Heavy rain and strong winds began hitting California on January 4, resulting in flooded roads and power outages. More than an inch of rain fell per hour in some areas, putting about 35 million people under a flood watch. Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency to bring resources to the state. When *The Week Junior* went to press on January 10, storms continued and about 100,000 homes and businesses did not have power.

Workers receive pay increases

Wages increased for about 8.4 million people in 23 states and Washington, DC, when new laws increasing the minimum wage (lowest amount workers can be paid per hour) went into effect in January. The new wages vary by state, but all are above the federal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour. Four states, including Massachusetts, are increasing their minimum wage to at least $15 an hour.


P-22

Memorial for mountain lion set

The beloved mountain lion known as P-22, who lived in Los Angeles and died in December, will be celebrated at a memorial on February 4. Also called "Hollywood Cat," P-22 made Griffith Park his home for nearly 10 years after traveling 50 miles and navigating across two freeways to get there. The memorial will take place in the park and include people sharing stories about the mountain lion.

DID YOU KNOW?
About 48 million people in the US have hearing loss.

Many businesses in Boston will have to follow the new law.

Boston requires captions on TVs

All public places with televisions in the city of Boston, Massachusetts, must now turn on the TVs' closed-caption function. A new law requires restaurants, gyms, and other businesses to show the captions when their televisions are on. The bill, which immediately went into effect after being passed by the city council and signed into law by Mayor Michelle Wu, is designed to help people with hearing disabilities and other challenges.

Closed captions display a written transcript (text version) of the audio of any program airing on a TV. Besides displaying speech, the captions also describe sound effects, music, and other sounds from the show.

Captions are useful for people who have trouble hearing or comprehending the audio, including people who are deaf, those who have conditions that affect their hearing, and people who find the language of a program challenging to understand. Captions can also be helpful for anyone in a noisy environment. Most TVs and streaming services have options for turning closed captions on.

Boston joins the state of Washington and at least six other major US cities in requiring that public TVs show captions. If a business doesn't use captions and complaints are filed, the business could lose its license to operate.

Michelle Wu, mayor of Boston

Many customers expressed their support for the requirement. "This has been a long time coming," said Dustin Feldman, who is hard of hearing and worries about missing information while watching public TVs.

Disability advocates celebrated the law. Wesley Ireland, chair of Boston's Disability Advisory Board, proposed the idea to the city in 2020 and said he was excited to see the change enacted. Mayor Wu agreed. "Improving communications access in public spaces across Boston is critical to Boston truly being for everyone," she said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Cow rescued from Australian mall gets stuck in mud the next morning" ***UPI***

ON THIS PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (5); AP; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); AP

Around the world

Paris, France
Food packaging law goes into effect

France has a new law aimed at reducing waste from fast-food restaurants. Since January 1, restaurants that can seat 20 or more people have been banned from using disposable packaging and cutlery. The restaurants have to provide reusable cutlery, plates, and cups. The ban applies only to people eating in restaurants, not to takeout orders. The country has a goal of phasing out all single-use plastics by 2040.

Switzerland
Skiing competition held on fake snow

After unseasonably warm weather caused real snow to melt, athletes competing in a skiing competition in Switzerland raced on slopes of artificial snow. The average daily temperature on New Year's Day is about 37˚ F, but this year it was a record-breaking 68˚ F. This is believed to have been caused by climate change (long-term changes in weather patterns, including temperature, largely due to human activities).

Brasilia, Brazil
Protesters storm government buildings

Supporters of Jair Bolsonaro, the former president of Brazil, stormed the capital on January 8, a week after new president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva took office. The protesters, who damaged government buildings, claimed the country's presidential election was stolen. World leaders condemned the attacks, and more than 1,500 protesters were detained. Bolsonaro is in Florida.

Zagreb, Croatia
Croatia adopts euro

On January 1, Croatia changed its old currency (money), the kuna, to the euro, the currency used in 19 other European countries. Croatia also entered the Schengen zone, an area of Europe where people can travel freely between countries with one Schengen visa. Experts say the changes will help Croatia's tourism industry.

Vatican City
Funeral for a pope

The funeral for former Pope Benedict XVI, who died on December 31 at age 95, was held at St. Peter's Square on January 5. Benedict was the pope (head of the worldwide Catholic Church) from 2005 to 2013, the first pope since 1415 to resign rather than serve until his death. About 3 million people paid their respects at Benedict's coffin before the funeral, which was attended by 50,000 people and presided over by the current pope, Francis.

AP; GETTY IMAGES (7); ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK

Around the world

Almaty, Kazakhstan
Playing chess without hijabs

Defying Iranian law, which requires women to cover their hair in public, two Iranian chess stars, Sara Khadem and Atousa Pourkashiyan, competed in a tournament without a hijab (headscarf). Iran has been rocked by protests since the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old who was arrested for not wearing a hijab, in September.

Tokyo, Japan
Families encouraged to leave Tokyo

The capital city of Japan is so crowded that the country is paying people to leave. Japan's government is offering families about $7,700 per child to move out of Tokyo so the population will be distributed more evenly across the country. There are currently more than 37 million people living in the Tokyo metro area, nearly one third of Japan's population. Families who accept the offer will be expected to live outside Tokyo for at least five years.

Thailand
Concerns grow over elephant tourism

Elephant tourism in Thailand is being debated amid concerns about the animals being mistreated. More than 3,000 elephants work in tourism, such as by giving rides and performing in shows. Some tour operators have ended these practices, but worries remain about how elephants are kept and treated, leading some people to argue that elephant tourism should end altogether.

Melbourne, Australia
Tennis tournament changes Covid rules

The organizers of the Australian Open, a major annual tennis tournament, have announced that players will not need to take Covid-19 tests to compete and are allowed to play if they're infected. At last year's tournament, players were required to take daily tests and isolate if they tested positive. The tournament starts on January 16.

Tanzania
Rally ban lifted

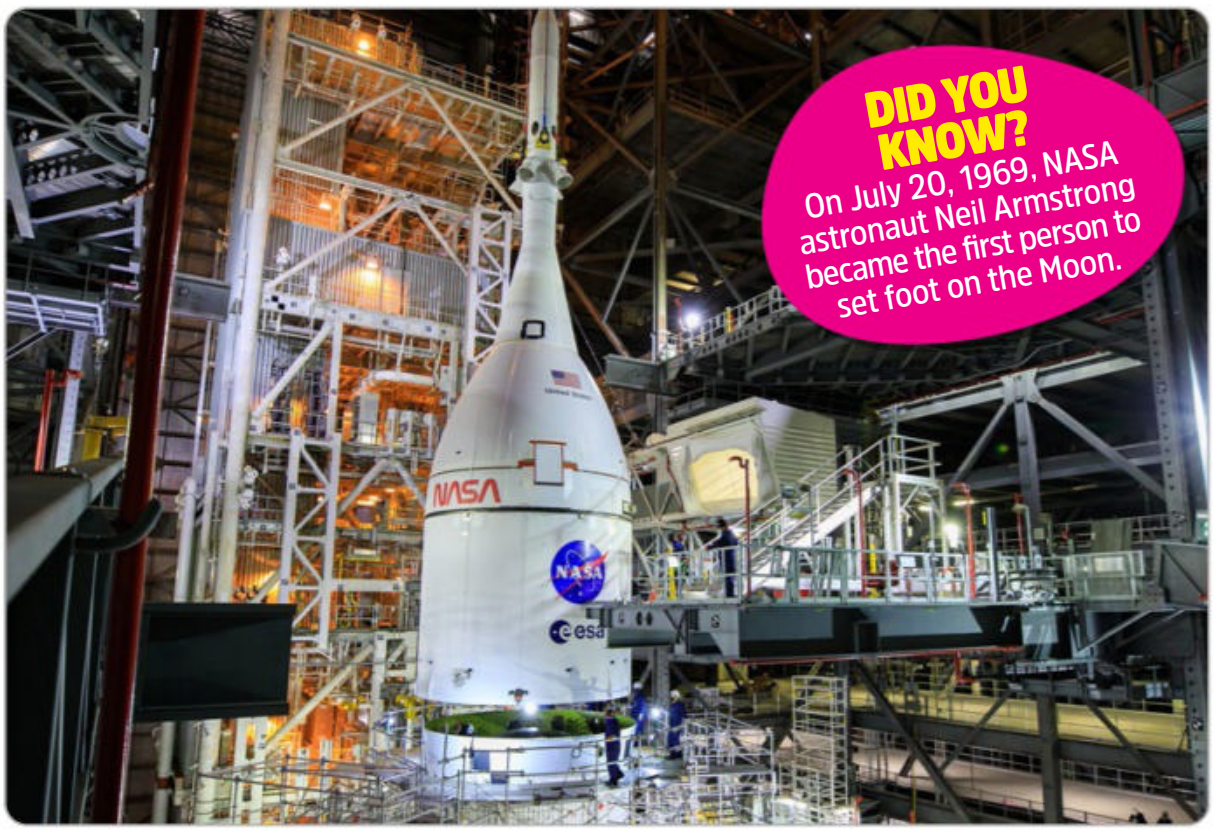
Tanzania's president, Samia Suluhu Hassan, has lifted a ban on political rallies (large public events). The ban against rallies was put in place in 2016 by the country's previous president, John Magufuli. Hassan has also introduced measures to give Tanzania's journalists more reporting freedom. In February 2022, bans on four newspapers that have been critical of the government were lifted.

Is exploring space worth the money?

Space exploration is exciting, but some say the money should be spent closer to home.

What you need to know

- **NASA, the US space agency, had a budget of $29.2 billion in 2022.**
- **It costs NASA about $3.1 billion a year to operate the International Space Station.**
- **NASA is expected to spend about $93 billion on its Artemis mission.**
- **Space exploration has led to advances in many types of technology, including heart monitors, water purification systems, solar panels, GPS, weather forecasting, camera phones, wireless headphones, and ear thermometers.**



When the first images from the James Webb Space Telescope were released in July 2022, people around the world saw awe-inspiring views of the universe. However, those views came with a hefty price tag: It cost about $10 billion to get Webb up and running nearly a million miles from Earth. Space exploration gives scientists a deeper understanding of our universe and shows us what great things humans can accomplish. Many people, however, say the money would be better spent addressing issues right here on Earth, such as climate change, social injustice, and the rising cost of goods. So what do you think—is exploring space worth the money?

Yes—the benefits outweigh the costs

Exploring our universe costs a lot of money, but it still comes to less than 1% of US government spending. That seems like a bargain when you think about all the benefits. Space programs boost the economy by creating jobs and driving the invention of new technology that changes our lives. Discoveries made through space exploration help us with problems on our planet. For example, learning how to grow food on Mars could help us grow food in our changing climate. Understanding how space flight affects astronauts could provide lifesaving knowledge about the human body. We need to keep looking beyond our horizons.

No—it wastes much-needed resources

The cost of space exploration can only be described as astronomical. NASA's budget has decreased since we first landed on the Moon, but it's still tens of billions of dollars every year. Right now, inflation (the cost of goods and services) is high in the US and people are struggling. That money could go to programs to help them. It could also be used to help protect Earth and slow climate change. And private companies like SpaceX are going to space, so exploration will continue whether or not the government pays for it. Besides, with more than 80% of the world's oceans yet to be explored, there's plenty to discover closer to home.

YES Three reasons space exploration is worth the money

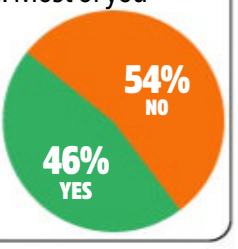
1. **Space exploration accounts for a small fraction of government spending.**
2. **Space programs create jobs and lead to new technology, which boosts the economy down the line.**
3. **What we learn in space could help us feed people as the climate changes and save lives with medical breakthroughs.**

NO Three reasons space exploration is not worth the money

1. **The billions of dollars spent on space could go to programs that help people struggling to buy groceries or fight climate change.**
2. **Several private companies are exploring space, so we should let them do it at their own expense, not the government's.**
3. **There's so much left to discover on Earth, including about 80% of the planet's oceans.**

LAST ISSUE'S POLL

In our last issue, we asked if fake Christmas trees are better than real ones. Most of you prefer the real deal: 54% of you said no, while 46% said yes.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think exploring space is worth the money or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

NASA/JSC

Leading his community

Jaylen Smith sought change in his hometown and became its mayor.

Jaylen Smith, an 18-year-old college freshman, did not set out to make headlines when he decided to run for mayor of Earle, Arkansas. He wanted to bring positive changes to his community. But when he won the election in November 2022, he ended up making history as the youngest Black mayor ever elected in the US.

Earle, Arkansas, welcome sign

"It all started in student government in high school," Smith told *The Week Junior*. The differences he and his classmates made within the school system inspired Smith to enter his name in the race for mayor. He wanted to make an impact not just at school but within the larger community of Earle.

Earle has a population of about 1,800 people. Smith plans to pursue his college education at Arkansas State University Mid-South while balancing his new mayoral duties. He already has a list of things he plans to tackle. "Public safety, beautifying the city, getting a grocery store, fixing the flooding issues, and activities for the youth" are his priorities, he said.

Smith's political aspirations do not stop at mayor. He hopes to one day become an attorney and climb the political ladder to state representative, state senator, and possibly even US President.

He told *The Week Junior* that some of the best qualities in a leader are honesty and motivation. "If you want to see change, be the person to start making the change," he said. Smith encourages other young people to run for office: "Regardless of your age, you can make a difference, and if you have the passion and drive, go for it."

Jaylen Smith

DID YOU KNOW?
The town of Earle, Arkansas, was founded in 1905.

Top prize is awarded

In December 2022, University of Southern California (USC) quarterback Caleb Williams received the 88th Heisman Trophy, which goes to the most outstanding college football player each year. The 20-year-old from Washington, DC, first told his father that he wanted to be a football player at age 10. "The path hasn't always been easy," he said in his acceptance speech. "To the 11-year-old out there who's watching right now, who was told you're too small, like they told me. Go out there, show them how big your heart is."

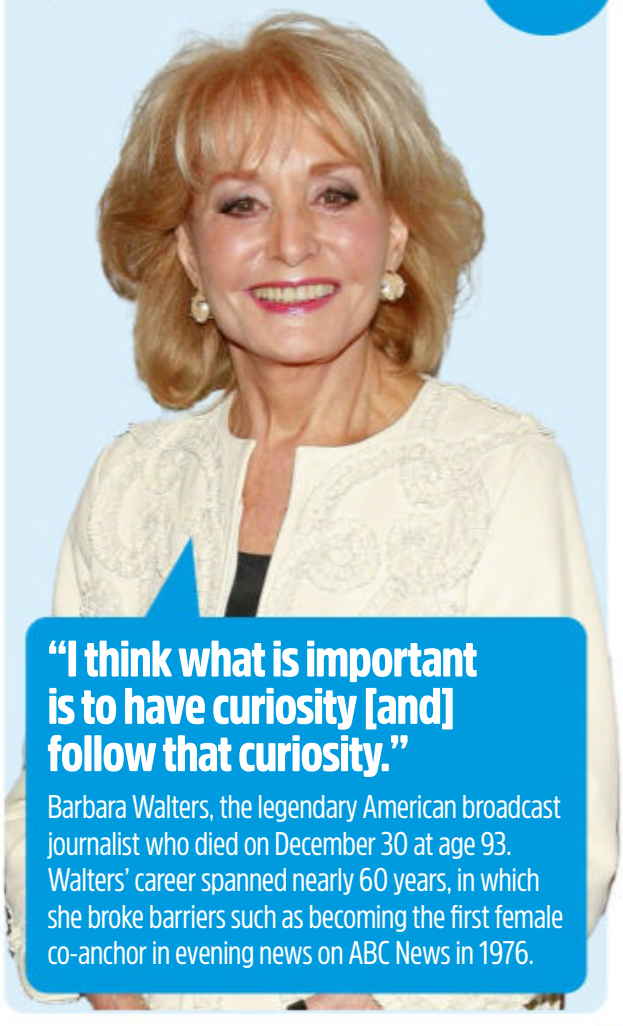
Caleb Williams

Ava DuVernay

A super-sweet honor

Renowned filmmaker and producer Ava DuVernay has had a Ben & Jerry's ice cream flavor named after her, becoming the first Black woman to appear on a pint of the famous brand. Called "Lights! Caramel! Action!," the flavor is vanilla with graham crackers, salted caramel, and chocolate chip cookie dough. Proceeds will go to her nonprofit, ARRAY Alliance, which works to empower female filmmakers and people of color. Of the flavor's name, DuVernay told *People* magazine the idea of taking action has been important to her. "Social action, social justice, and ice cream," she said.

OVERHEARD



"I think what is important is to have curiosity [and] follow that curiosity."

Barbara Walters, the legendary American broadcast journalist who died on December 30 at age 93. Walters' career spanned nearly 60 years, in which she broke barriers such as becoming the first female co-anchor in evening news on ABC News in 1976.

COURTESY OF JALEN SMITH; GETTY IMAGES (3)

DID YOU KNOW?
There are more than 500 shark species swimming in the world's oceans.

Blacktop reef sharks

Shark-friendly fishing

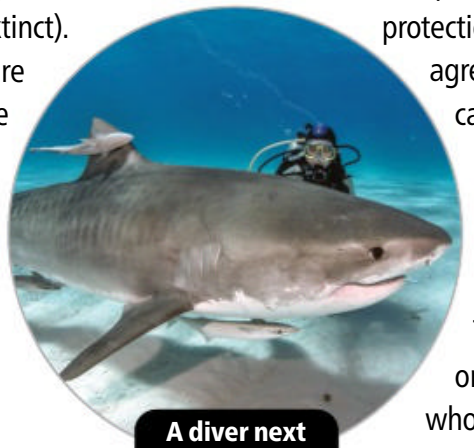
A major threat to sharks is getting caught accidentally on hooks used to catch other fish. A new device, SharkGuard, is changing that. Once the device is attached to a fish hook, it emits an electrical pulse. Sharks are sensitive to electric charge, so they stay away. When tested, the number of blue sharks caught dropped by 91%.

Bluefin tuna

Nations agree to protect sharks

Nearly 200 countries have come together to pass a new rule to protect more than 50 of the world's shark species, many of which are endangered (at risk of going extinct).

One of the reasons sharks are endangered is because they are hunted for their fins, which are used in shark fin soup, a popular meal in parts of Asia. The sharks that are hunted most for their fins include blue, bull, and tiger sharks, all of which will now be protected.


A diver next to a tiger shark

The agreement was made at a meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which manages how plants and animals are traded. Most of the world's countries are members of CITES.

The deal puts 60 shark species under the protection of CITES. Thanks to this agreement, about 95% of sharks caught for their fins are now protected. This means that anyone trying to buy or sell these types of shark must show an official document. These documents will be given only to companies or people who have proved to scientists that their trade doesn't endanger wildlife.

Conservationists (people who work to protect animals and nature) hope the deal will protect biodiversity (the variety of species) in the sea. Sharks are very important to preserving diversity because they are usually apex predators. That means they are at the top of the "food chain"—nothing else eats them. If sharks were to disappear, ocean life lower down the food chain would be affected, since some species' numbers would increase. These increases could negatively affect the delicate balance of all sea life.

Some biologists (scientists who study living things) have criticized the new rule. They think that by making it harder to fish for sharks, their fins could become even more expensive, which would encourage illegal fishing. However, Shawn Heinrichs from Only One, a group that works to protect oceans, called it "the biggest win in the history of marine species."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Dead Horse Point State Park, Utah

This state park in Moab, Utah, is nestled in canyon country, and its trees and land have been shaped by years of erosion from water and wind. The gooseneck in the Colorado River, a curved bend in the river that is one of the main features of the park, can be viewed from an overlook that towers 2,000 feet above. With clear night skies for stargazing, the park is designated an International Dark Sky Park. The larger Moab area around the park teems with wildlife, including Hopi chipmunks, juniper titmice, turkey vultures, and western collared lizards.

A Hopi chipmunk

A squirrel glider is one type of marsupial.

WOW! A baby kangaroo, called a joey, spends about 235 days in its mother's pouch.

Marsupials have complex social lives

Researchers used to consider marsupials (mammals with a pouch) loners with simple social lives. But according to a new study, scientists now think marsupials are more sociable and can form long-term relationships with one another.

More than 250 species are classified as marsupials, including koalas, kangaroos, wombats, and squirrel gliders, and are found in Australia and New Guinea. Scientists at the National Center for Scientific Research in France examined data from 120 studies on 149 populations of 65 marsupial species. They categorized each population as solitary (living alone), living in pairs, or living in groups of three or more.

Nineteen species were found to live solitary lives, while nearly half of the species preferred to live in pairs or in larger groups. In addition, 27 species belonged to multiple social groups. Scientists found more marsupial social groups in drier weather with less predictable rainfall. They believe that when the weather is challenging, marsupials enter social groups to ensure access to resources, including food.

Animal of the week: Principe scops-owl

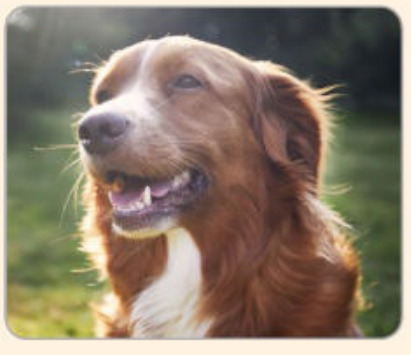
Researchers identified a species of owl, the Principe scops-owl, that lives on Principe, an island off Africa's western coast. There are an estimated 1,500 of these owls, and residents say their presence dates back as far as 1928.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Scops-owls live about 5 to 7 years.
- **HABITAT:** Forests on the island of Principe
- **SIZE:** About 8 inches tall
- **DIET:** Scops-owls typically feed on insects.
- **FUN FACT:** The owl makes a screeching noise that can sound like an insect's call.

Good week / Bad week

Union Island geckos

The population of Union Island geckos has increased to about 18,000 from 10,000 in 2018. More protected areas and measures to prevent illegal hunting have helped the species, found on an island in the Caribbean, to recover.



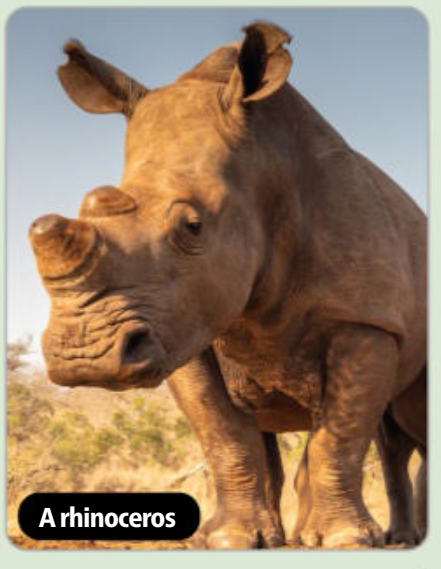
Dogs

Dogs throughout the US have been getting sick from a strain of the flu virus, forcing facilities like dog day cares to close. Symptoms can include coughing, tiredness, and a lack of appetite. Most dogs recover in two to three weeks.

Ask a zookeeper: "What are rhinoceros horns made of?" Grace, 12, Texas

Joan Daniels
Senior curator of mammals, Brookfield Zoo

This may be surprising, but rhino horns are not actually horns. These "horns" are mostly made of fibers called keratin, which is also what human hair and fingernails are made of. And like hair and nails, rhino horns will grow throughout the animal's lifetime.



A rhinoceros

Do you have a question for a zookeeper? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Brookfield Zoo in Illinois at czs.org/BrookfieldZoo.

GETTY IMAGES (4); ALAMY; ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY (2); SHUTTERSTOCK; GETTY IMAGES (2)

Marking a century of

The global entertainment company celebrates a major milestone.

The Walt Disney Company turns 100 years old this year. Let's look back to where it all began, with a talented young artist's vision.

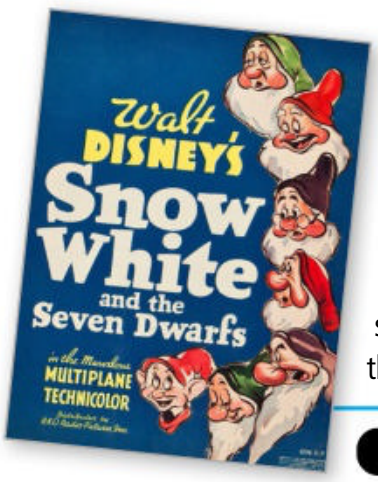
Walt (left) and Roy Disney

A man and a mouse

Walter "Walt" Disney was born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1901. As a child he had a passion for drawing, especially cartoons. In 1923, Disney created the short film *Alice in Cartoonland*. It became a hit, and Walt and his brother Roy opened the Disney Brothers Cartoon Studio (later renamed Walt Disney Studios). Their first big success was the 1928 animated short film *Steamboat Willie*. America fell in love with its star character, Mickey Mouse. The brothers continued producing shorts but really wanted to make feature-length movies.

Big-screen sensations

More than 300 artists worked on Disney's first feature film, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, released in 1937. Disney used *Snow White*'s record-high earnings to build a new studio. The studio struggled to turn a profit during World War II (1939–1945), despite releasing classics such as *Pinocchio* in 1940. But its fortunes turned with 1950's *Cinderella*. The company has produced countless beloved films since then. But some of Disney's earlier movies have been criticized for their use of racist stereotypes. In 2020, the company updated its content warnings on several films, including *Dumbo* and *Peter Pan*, acknowledging negative depictions and stating, "These stereotypes were wrong then and are wrong now."



A 1937 movie poster

HEY, MICKEY!
Mickey Mouse's name was originally Mortimer Mouse, until Walt Disney's wife convinced him to change it.

Walt Disney (above) and legendary characters through the decades

Major films

Bambi

This touching 1942 movie about a young deer was the first animated movie with no human roles. Disney artists modeled their drawings on real animals in the wild.

Toy Story

This 1995 hit was the first animated feature created entirely on computers. Pixar, which was later acquired by Disney, built the software that allowed animators to design 3D characters, ushering in a new era of animation.

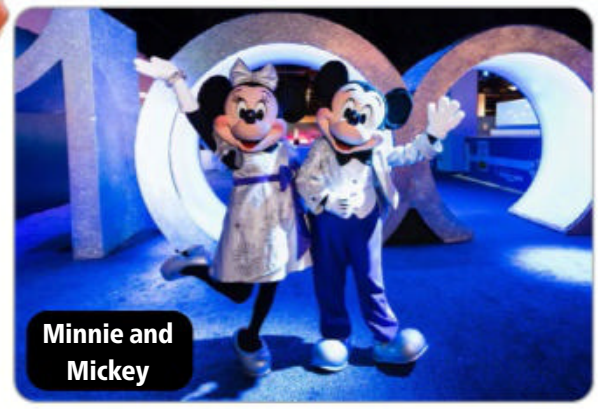
DISNEY (13); DISNEY/PIXAR (3); GETTY IMAGES (5); ALAMY

making magic

A Disney park in Paris, France

Growing the Disney universe

In 1955, Disney's famous characters seemed to walk off the screen and into the real world with the opening of Disneyland, the company's first theme park, in Anaheim, California. The vision grew even bigger with the launch of Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, in 1971, followed by parks in Tokyo, Paris, Hong Kong, and Shanghai. These six resorts now host a total of 12 parks. Disney also branched out into TV, starting in 1950, and debuted on Broadway with *Beauty and the Beast* in 1994. The company bought one of its biggest competitors, Pixar Animation Studios, in 2006. It purchased the superhero film powerhouse Marvel Entertainment in 2009 and *Star Wars* creator Lucasfilm in 2012.

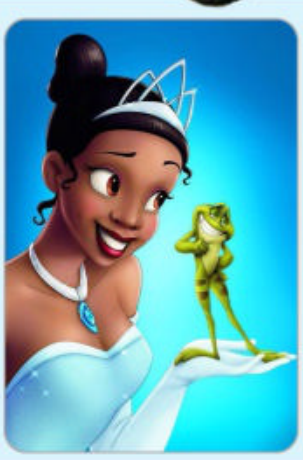

Minnie and Mickey

Celebrating 100 years

Disney's "100 Years of Wonder," a worldwide celebration of the anniversary of the company's founding, kicked off on January 1. Disneyland's iconic Sleeping Beauty Castle will be decorated for the occasion, and the resort will host new events showcasing Disney history. New movies will be released, including a live-action version of *The Little Mermaid* featuring singer Halle Bailey, a Haunted Mansion film inspired by the theme park ride, and a reimagining of 1953's *Peter Pan* called *Peter Pan & Wendy*. A traveling exhibit, "Disney100: The Exhibition," will give behind-the-scenes looks at Disney media and attractions. And a website, Disney100.com, will offer a digital experience so fans can take part in a century of magic—all born from one man's spectacular imagination.

The Princess and the Frog

Disney returned to hand-drawn animation for this 2009 fairy tale, which featured the first Black Disney princess. It was co-directed by the same pair who directed *The Little Mermaid* (1989) and *Aladdin* (1992).



Frozen

This 2013 fan favorite was inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's 1844 story, "The Snow Queen," which features a sorceress with power over ice and snow. *Frozen* and *Frozen II* (2019) are the highest-earning animated movies of all time.

A rendering of ankylosaurs fighting

DID YOU KNOW?
Ankylosaur means "fused lizard" in Greek, a reference to the fact that many of the dino's bones were fused together.

Dinos battled each other with tails

Ankylosaurs were dinosaurs with armored bodies and tails that swung like clubs. Researchers thought that the herbivorous (plant-eating) creatures used these features as protection against big predators like Tyrannosaurus rex. But a new study suggests that the dinos may have also used them to show off and fight with one another.

The largest ankylosaurs were between 4 and 6 feet tall and more than 20 feet long. They lived mainly during the Cretaceous period (about 145 to 66 million years ago). Most of their body was covered with bony plates—making them look similar to an armadillo but with sharp points jutting out from each plate. Some had a heavy, bony club at the end of their tail that could crack the bones of any animal unfortunate enough to come in contact with it.

Victoria Arbour

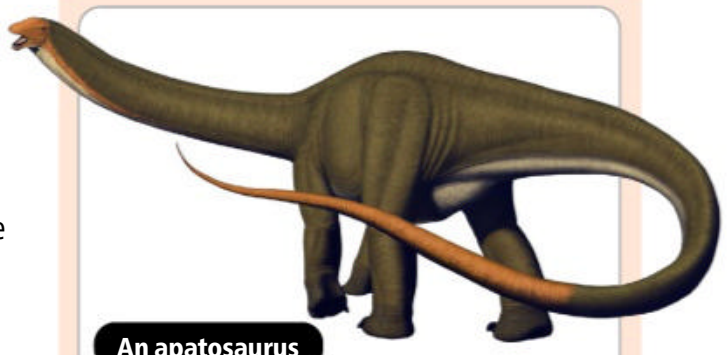
A group of researchers recently analyzed one of the most complete ankylosaur skeletons ever found. The fossil was found in Montana during an excavation of a nearby Tyrannosaurus in 2014. The scientists named it Zuul crurivastator (which means "Zuul, the destroyer of shins") after a fictional creature from the movie *Ghostbusters*. Examinations revealed evidence of injuries along the animal's hips. A few of the bony plates had broken and begun to heal, and some of its spikes were missing their tips.

It seemed unlikely that these injuries came from predators, which would have been more likely to attack the ankylosaur from above and avoid the area near its tail club. There were no bite marks indicating an attempt to eat the creature. Instead, the dino appeared to have been injured by the tail club of another ankylosaur.

The team concluded that ankylosaurs may have competed for dominance through tail club fights, as some rams and other horned animals do today by headbutting. "The injuries are right where you'd expect two battling ankylosaurs would break things," said lead author Victoria Arbour. Powerful tail clubs also might have helped the animals impress potential mates.

Even if its main purpose was to compete with its own kind, Zuul's tail would have been a useful weapon when a Tyrannosaurus or other large predator came along. "The [name] destroyer of shins is still quite apt," Arbour said.

A dino tail debate



An apatosaurus

Apatosaurus (a long-necked dinosaur once known as Brontosaurus) had a very long tail. Scientists believed the dino whipped its tail to make a loud "crack" sound and scare off predators. They created a computer model in 1997 and a physical model in 2015 to show that the tail could move faster than the speed of sound to create what's called a sonic boom.

But a new computer model, made by a different group of scientists, has caused a disagreement in the scientific community. The new team found that the dinosaur's tail would not have been able to move at that speed without breaking. A scientist who worked on the original study has since stated that he strongly disagrees with the new findings.

Pretending to be a scientist sparks girls' interest

Young girls who pretended to be a famous female scientist showed more persistence in science, according to a new study. This suggests that encouraging girls to pretend-play as scientists could make them more likely to pursue education and work in scientific fields. Previous research has found that many girls as young as 6 think boys are better at science than they are.

HERO OF SCIENCE
Marie Curie received the Nobel Prize twice, once for physics and once for chemistry.

For the new study, researchers recruited 240 children ages 4 to 7. The kids played a game in which they were shown an object (such as a basketball or a balloon) held over water and were asked to predict if it would sink or float. They learned whether their prediction was right and were asked if they wanted to try again or do something else.

Some of the girls were told about the famous female scientist Marie Curie. Then some of those girls were instructed to pretend to be Curie when making their predictions. The girls who pretended to be her chose to play the game twice as long as girls who had not heard about Curie. The girls who were told about Curie but did not pretend to be her didn't play the game noticeably longer than the girls who weren't told about Curie. They did, however, express more confidence in their ability to make scientific predictions afterward.

Some of the boys in the study were asked to pretend to be the male scientist Isaac Newton, but that did not make a difference in how long they chose to play the game.

Scientists have to be patient and persistent.

The necklace (left) may have originally looked like this (right).

Rare medieval necklace found in UK

In what is being called a "once-in-a-lifetime discovery," a 1,300-year-old necklace made of gold, garnet, and other semiprecious stones was found in the UK. It was discovered at the burial site of a wealthy and religious medieval woman.

Archaeologists (scientists who study objects left by people long ago) date the necklace to between the years 630–670. Its centerpiece is a pendant with a garnet cross, surrounded by 30 other objects, like Roman gold coins and beads. The necklace is named the Harpole Treasure after a nearby town.

The team called the grave an important example of a female burial site from that era, which was about 100 years after the religion Christianity arrived in the UK. The woman is unidentified, but she was likely among the first generations of Christians there. Women like her would have played an important role in spreading the religion in the area.

AMAZING INVENTION

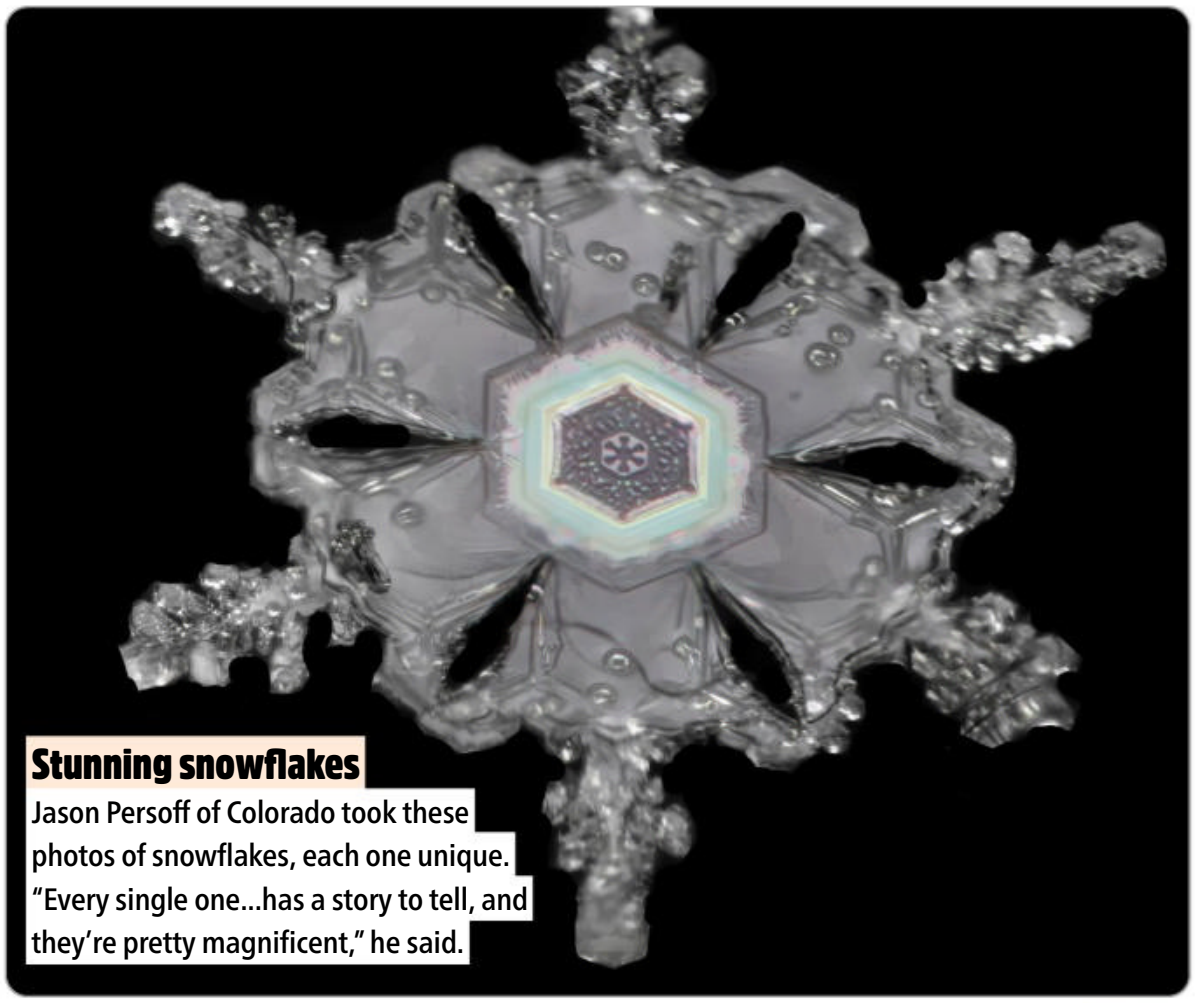
An accessible gaming controller

A new controller for the Sony PlayStation 5 lets players with disabilities customize it to their needs. Sony, which is working with accessibility experts to develop the unit, said it is "built to address common challenges faced by many players with limited motor control."

Players can swap out and configure buttons of different shapes and sizes. A single button can be programmed to function like multiple buttons pressed simultaneously on a more traditional controller. The unit can also rest on a flat surface or be mounted vertically.

GETTY IMAGES; MOLA; SONY INTERACTIVE; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES; NPS/BOB WALTERS/TESS KISSINGER; DANIELLE DUFAULT/FLARE.COM

Photos of the week



Stunning snowflakes
Jason Persoff of Colorado took these photos of snowflakes, each one unique. "Every single one...has a story to tell, and they're pretty magnificent," he said.

JASON PERSOFF

Photos of the week

DID YOU KNOW?
The University of Georgia began its football program in 1892.

Georgia quarterback Stetson Bennett (center)

Championship trophy

The trophy for the CFP National Championship is handcrafted from gold, bronze, and stainless steel and takes three months to make. It is 26.5 inches tall, but when it sits on its base, the entire unit is 3 feet tall. The football shape at the top of the trophy is the size of a real ball.

Georgia wins college football title

There was a familiar winner at the College Football Playoff National Championship game, played at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, California, on January 9. The University of Georgia, the number one team, successfully defended their national title by defeating third-ranked Texas Christian University (TCU), 65–7. The score was the biggest margin of victory of any national championship game in history. It is Georgia's fourth championship title overall.

Georgia was undefeated this season and favored to win. TCU, however, had an impressive season. They had a 13–1 record and finished at the top of their conference. It was a major turnaround from last season, when they had a losing record and finished in fifth place. TCU made the final by upsetting the University of Michigan, 51–45, in a semifinal game on December 31. In the other semifinal, Georgia beat Ohio State, 42–41.

Brock Bowers

In the championship game, Georgia scored its first points four minutes into the first quarter, when quarterback Stetson Bennett ran in a 21-yard touchdown. TCU scored its only touchdown later that quarter. Bennett delivered a spectacular performance, throwing for 304 yards and delivering a total of six touchdowns. Georgia tight end Brock Bowers led the way for the team's receivers with seven catches for 152 yards and a touchdown. Another key player was wide receiver Ladd McConkey, who contributed five catches for 88 yards and two touchdowns. Six different Georgia players rushed for 30 yards or more in the victory.

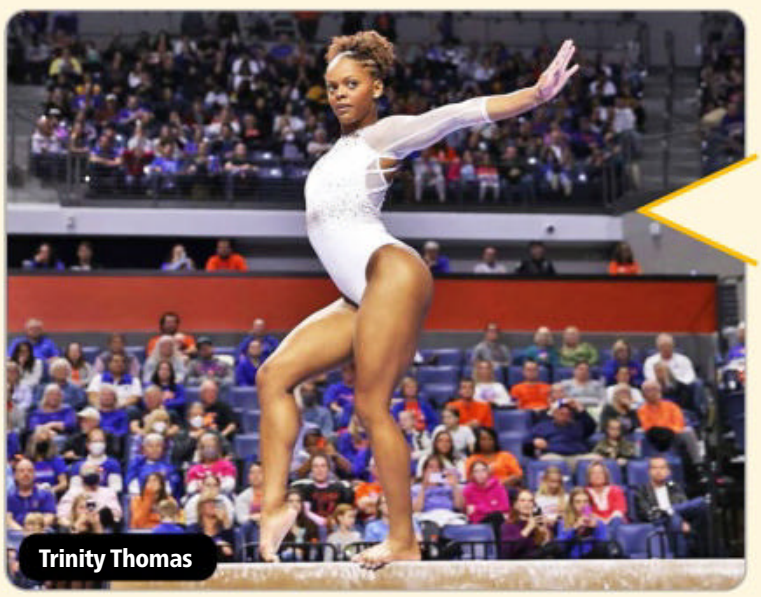
Georgia's 65 points were the most scored by a team in national championship game history, but the team's defense also deserves credit for the massive win. TCU's quarterback Max Duggan was one of the best players this season, and Georgia held him to 152 passing yards. He also was intercepted twice and sacked five times. TCU star wide receiver Quentin Johnston was able to catch only one pass for three yards.

Georgia is already favored to win the 2024 national championship.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

On January 7, the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Las Vegas Raiders, 31–13, to earn a number one seed in the playoffs. The next day, the Philadelphia Eagles beat the New York Giants, 22–16, to lock up the other number one seed in the playoffs. Other winners in the NFL's final regular season weekend included the Jacksonville Jaguars, Miami Dolphins, and Seattle Seahawks, who will play in the Wild Card round.


Trinity Thomas

COLLEGE GYMNASTICS

On January 6, Trinity Thomas of the University of Florida earned a perfect 10 on the balance beam, helping her team win their first meet of 2023. It was her 21st perfect score. At a meet the next day, Sunisa Lee of Auburn University also got a 10 on the beam.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Defending league champions Manchester City beat Chelsea, 1–0, on January 5. The lone goal was scored by forward Riyad Mahrez.

US skier ties World Cup record

On January 8, American skier Mikaela Shiffrin made history by winning her 82nd World Cup race at an event in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. World Cup events are part of a circuit of top international competitions. With the win, she tied American Lindsey Vonn for the most alpine (downhill) World Cup wins by a woman.

Shiffrin, who is from Colorado, specializes in the slalom discipline, which is racing downhill through a course. She has won six world championships and two Olympic golds. She won her first alpine World Cup race in 2012 at age 17. Vonn competed in 395 races in order to obtain her 82 World Cup victories, while Shiffrin did it in 233. The pair have 20 wins more than the next best woman.

Tying Vonn's record wasn't Shiffrin's only recent big accomplishment. On January 4, she earned her fifth consecutive World Cup win of the season. That matched the longest streak for anyone in 25 years. The next day, she became the first skier to reach 50 World Cup slalom wins. That is the most by any skier in one discipline.

Vonn is happy about Shiffrin's success, especially because she is a fellow American. "Records are meant to be broken and it's a sign of progress," she told the Associated Press. She said Shiffrin will inspire a new generation of skiers and also noted that most of the top alpine skiers are European. "It just speaks for our country as a whole and what we're capable of doing," she said.

The overall record for most World Cup wins in any sport by a man or woman is held by Swedish skier Ingemar Stenmark. He has won 86. Shiffrin still has plenty of World Cup races left this season and could tie or break his record before it ends.

COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Madeline Kaiser**

Team: **Medina Titans FC**

"Coach Kaiser is a kind and helpful coach. She pushes each one of us to play our best, yet she's always supportive when we make mistakes. She plans fun games for us to play, including Flying Changes. She is a fabulous coach, and I enjoy playing on her team!"
Sophie, 9, Washington

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Jared Shumate

AGE: 23 SPORT: NORDIC COMBINED SKIING
TEAM: TEAM USA

Air time I grew up in Utah, and my parents signed me up for ski school at around age 3. I got my start in Nordic combined, which is cross-country skiing and ski jumping, through an after-school program. The appeal of ski jumping was that it's about going fast and flying through the air.

Seasonal schedule In the winter, we're on some form of skis five or six days a week. In the summer, we train for ski jumping on a plastic surface and we cross-country ski on roller skis, which are like weird looking in-line roller skates.

Busy days At competitions, we usually ski jump, have a couple of hours off, then have the cross-country race. The person who wins the ski jumping round starts first, so they have an advantage. We'll have two or three events each competition weekend, so I try to tell myself that if the first day goes poorly, it doesn't mean the next events will go the same way.

Career highs I had a goal of competing at the Olympics since I was 4 or 5. A year after high school, I qualified for the national team, and I competed in the Beijing Olympics last year. I'm super proud of that. I didn't win a medal, but I had the best results of my whole career. A couple of months later, I graduated from college. I'm proud of being on the US Ski Team and making it through college at the same time. It's tricky to do schoolwork while traveling the world. I want to do my best to win a medal at the 2026 Olympic Games.

His advice If you have the passion for a sport, go for it while you can and give it everything you've got.

GETTY IMAGES (3); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3); MATT PENDLETON

WOW! The Phantom of the Opera has been on Broadway for 35 years straight, setting a record.

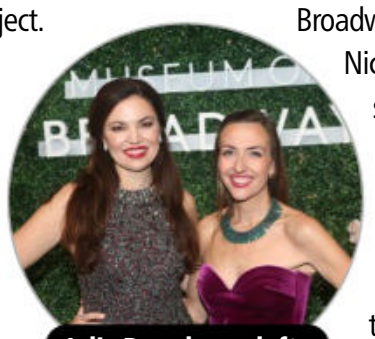
Outside and inside the Museum of Broadway

Museum honors Broadway

Visitors can learn about the history of theater in New York City and get immersed in exhibits about different shows.

A new museum is celebrating the history of Broadway, New York City's famous theater district, and the people who bring its shows to life. The Museum of Broadway is the first permanent establishment devoted to the subject.

Theater performances in New York City started before the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), and as the city grew, the most successful theaters were on or near Broadway, a major avenue. There are currently 41 Broadway theaters in operation.



Julie Boardman, left, and Diane Nicoletti

The museum's co-founders are producers and entrepreneurs Julie Boardman and Diane Nicoletti. They teamed up with people who work on Broadway to create a place that could "honor Broadway history as well as the community," Nicoletti told *The Week Junior*. Boardman said the museum is immersive and interactive to represent the visual "razzle dazzle" of Broadway.

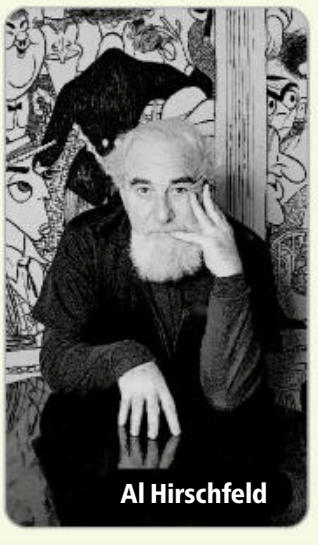
The museum is divided into three sections and has artifacts from more than 500 shows, including *Annie* and *The Music Man*. In the Map Room, visitors learn about the history of theaters in New York City. In the Timeline section, walls are covered with information about plays, musicals, people, and groundbreaking moments. Visitors then walk into an exhibit about productions that have helped change Broadway and attract new audiences.

The last area is The Making of a Broadway Show, where visitors can learn about the importance of off-stage jobs, such as being a costume designer or a press agent. It aims to show that Broadway is a place for more than actors. "It's meant to open people's eyes to the kind of magic that goes on behind the scenes," Boardman said.

3 items on display

Al Hirschfeld drawings

An exhibition space that will periodically change has works by caricature artist Al Hirschfeld, who died in 2003. He is famous for portraits of Broadway stars. Visitors can create works in his style.



Al Hirschfeld

Lion King masks

The award-winning musical *The Lion King* has been on Broadway since 1997. It is known for its innovative puppets and costumes. The museum features masks for the characters of Simba and Nala.

One of the masks

In the Heights model

Hamilton creator Lin-Manuel Miranda's first Broadway musical was *In the Heights*. Visitors to the museum can see a miniature model of the set from the show.

The marquee for *In the Heights*

FUN FACT
In 2022, Avatar Flight of Passage was one of the most popular rides at Walt Disney World.

Avatar: The Way of Water

Sci-fi film dominates box office

Director James Cameron's 2009 sci-fi epic *Avatar* has made about $3 billion worldwide, more than any film in history. Now its sequel, *Avatar: The Way of Water*, is also making a splash. It was released on December 16, and after three weeks in movie theaters, it had earned $1.7 billion worldwide. By January 9, it had become the 7th highest-grossing film of all time.

The first *Avatar* film was set in the world of Pandora, where marine Jake Sully was sent to drive away a native civilization, the Na'Vi, so that valuable minerals could be mined. Instead, he found love with a Na'Vi named Neytiri. *The Way of Water* picks up years later as the same threat returns. Jake, Neytiri, and their children must leave their home and seek refuge with a water civilization. Both films are rated PG-13 for action, violence, and some mature themes.

The *Avatar* films were made with a process called motion capture. It allows filmmakers to record the actors' movements and turn them into 3D animation. Much of the new film was shot underwater, and the actors were trained to hold their breath for several minutes at a time.

Three more *Avatar* films are planned, and the next one is scheduled to be released in December 2024. The future stories are expected to focus on Jake and Neytiri's children as they grow up.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Kids Baking Championship
(Food Network) Mondays at 8 pm ET (Discovery+)

Kids with their own baking businesses are facing off in the new season of this competition series. They'll tackle challenges such as making logos for cupcakes and re-creating viral desserts in hopes of winning a $25,000 grand prize.

Star Wars: The Bad Batch
(Disney+)

In the new second season of this animated series set in the Star Wars universe, a group of experimental clones continue their journey around the Empire after the fall of the Republic. During their missions, they will encounter new and old friends and enemies.

Craft in America
(PBS Video App)

This documentary series profiles artists who work with mediums including ceramics, textiles, and wood. Each episode has a theme such as "Home" or "Inspiration," and shows how an artist's cultural heritage or environment can influence their craft.

TELL US YOUR TOP MOVIE OR SHOW

We are starting a new column!

Many readers have written to us about their favorite movies and TV series, and we always enjoy hearing from you. Your reviews of what to watch are so interesting that we have decided to put them in the magazine! Going forward, this space will feature one recommendation from a reader every week. Whether it's classic films, new movies, animated shows, reality TV, or documentaries, we want to know what you have most enjoyed watching. In one or two paragraphs, tell us what you watched and the top reasons why you liked it. Write a few sentences about the plot and subject matter and give descriptions of the main characters. Reviews should be sent to *hello@theweekjunior.com*, and be sure to include your first name, age, and the US state where you live. We know you're going to have amazing suggestions!

DISNEY: COURTESY OF FOOD NETWORK; DISNEY+/LUCASFILM LTD.; DENISE KANG; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: COURTESY MUSEUM OF BROADWAY (2); GETTY IMAGES (4)

FUN FACT
The smallest butterfly in the world, the western pygmy blue, has a wingspan of less than 1 inch.

Flutter Butterflies

New Netflix mobile games

Since late 2021, the streaming service Netflix has been releasing mobile games for Apple and Android devices that are free for subscribers. With the recent addition of nine new titles, there are now 40 games available.

To find the games, you go into the Netflix mobile app, scroll to the Games row, then pick a title. You are then taken to an exclusive section of the App Store or Google Play where the game can be downloaded. Unlike many mobile games, Netflix's do not contain ads or require in-app purchases to advance.

Among the new offerings is Flutter Butterflies, a nature simulation game. It begins in a small section of a forest, where you will stumble upon a little egg that you need to keep safe until a caterpillar emerges. After you feed it enough leaves, it will enter the pupa stage, and finally, a butterfly will emerge. The object of the game is to grow the area of the forest and add more butterflies. You can discover many species and keep a record of them in a digital notebook.

Another new game is Cats & Soup, where you help cats make food for customers by finding new recipes, catching fish, and preparing ingredients. The more successful you are, the more tools, clothing, and decorations you'll be able to purchase with in-game points.

Other games include Country Friends, which is similar to the popular game FarmVille, and Hello Kitty Happiness Parade, where characters compete with dance moves. There is even a puzzle game for fans of the series *Stranger Things*. It features characters from the show and a battle with the Demogorgon.

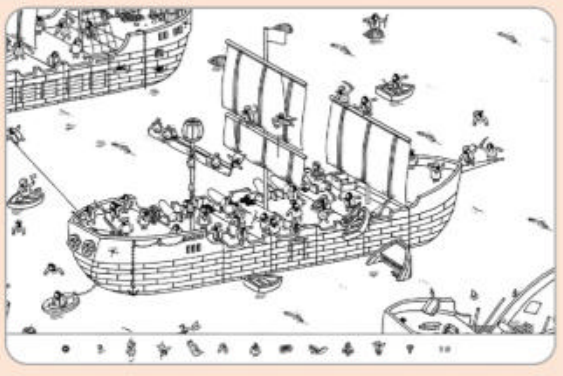
PODCAST OF THE WEEK

IT'S SUPER EFFECTIVE: A WEEKLY POKÉMON PODCAST

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts

Pokémon fans can listen to this award-winning podcast for news and information about the anime series, video games, trading cards, the Pokémon GO app, and more. The hosts also ask trivia questions and answer emails from listeners.

APP OF THE WEEK



HIDDEN FOLKS

Apple App Store, Google Play, Nintendo Switch

This app is packed with puzzles that require you to search for hundreds of targets in hand-drawn, miniature landscapes. You can interact with a scene by doing things such as cutting through bushes and poking crocodiles, and as you do, sound effects help bring everything to life.

CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

AMAURY GUICHON

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Chocolate

Amaury Guichon is a pastry chef and chocolatier (someone who makes things out of chocolate). His YouTube channel is full of videos that highlight his amazingly detailed sweet creations. You can watch how he makes a huge giraffe, a foosball table, and other surprising works of chocolate art.

NETFLIX (2); PKMNCAST COLLECTION; HIDDEN FOLKS; AMAURY GUICHON/YOUTUBE

OUR JANUARY BOOK CLUB PICK

Heroes of Havensong: Dragonboy

By Megan Reyes

(Labyrinth Road)

Every 25 years, the village of Gerbera sends its king to the Land of Dragons. Legend has it that the fiery beasts eat the king and, in return, the dragons maintain peace with the village. That's how it's been for nearly 1,000 years. But this time, the king dies just before his journey. The knights argue about who will take his place. It is determined that Blue, a 12-year-old orphan who works in a horse stable, will be quickly crowned king and sent off to Dragon Mountain. When Blue gets there, a twist happens. Eventually, he teams up with three other children—including a runaway witch—to make lasting peace among the dragons, humans, and magical forces. The chapters switch perspectives, making you aware of different points of view, and the story's magic, such as being able to smell emotions like fear and joy, is very cool. The book is the first in a series and ends on a cliff-hanger.

WIN A BOOK!

We're giving away one signed copy of *Heroes of Havensong: Dragonboy*.

For a chance to win, send your name and address to *contests@theweekjunior.com* with Dragonboy in the subject line. Enter by midnight on January 27. See theweekjunior.com/terms for complete rules.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Action-packed and full of interesting characters, *Heroes of Havensong: Dragonboy* is a great book to talk about with friends and family who have also read it. Here are some questions to get your book club conversation going.

How are the dragons in this book different from those in other books you've read?

Which character do you think showed the most bravery and why?

How do you think the heroes in this book learned from one another?

Can differences among people be an advantage to friendships? Why or why not?

What secret that was revealed surprised you the most and why?

Did you feel satisfied by the ending? Why or why not?

JOIN *THE WEEK JUNIOR*'S BOOK CLUB

Watch a special video Megan Reyes created for *The Week Junior* and learn more about how our monthly book club works at kids.theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Ask the author

The Week Junior spoke to Megan Reyes, the author of *Heroes of Havensong: Dragonboy*. She's been a writer since childhood, and this is her first published book. She lives in California with her family.

Why did you write about dragons?

I've been fascinated with them for as long as I can remember! When my mom would take me to the library, I'd go to the fantasy section and check out everything I could find about dragons, magic, and wizards.

Do you draw?

Yes, I sketch out the worlds for my stories. When I was growing up, I used to draw comics about M&M's and Skittles battling each other.

Favorite warm drink?

I would choose hot chocolate with peppermint, and ideally there would be marshmallows on top.

How long did it take you to write this book?

I worked on this story for two years before I got an agent (someone who helps sell a book to a publishing company), and then I spent more time making revisions.

Who is your hero?

My grandma who recently passed away at age 103. She always remembered to send birthday cards to her 12 kids and many grandkids. Her kindness and her friendliness inspired my deep love for family and others.

What do you hope readers remember from this story?

Even though the main characters make a lot of mistakes, they are the heroes of this book. Being a hero doesn't mean being perfect—it means always trying your

BOOK: COURTESY OF PUBLISHER; AUTHOR: COURTESY OF MEGAN REYES; GETTY IMAGES

SWEET DREAMS
More than 33% of adults said they sleep with a comfort item, such as a stuffed animal or blanket.

Sleep away from home

These tips will help you feel confident at sleepovers and other overnight trips.

If you have a sleepover at a friend's house coming up, you may feel both excited and unsure. That's because even though you know you'll have fun, it can be hard to be away from your routine at home. The good news is that there are simple steps you can take to prepare yourself. Here's how to get started.

Take a bit of home with you

Besides packing pajamas and a toothbrush, you may want to include an item that will make the bed or sleeping bag where you'll be sleeping feel more like home. This might include items like your pillow, a special blanket, a stuffed animal, or a book. If you're going to be staying away for a longer period of time, such as traveling with a club or team to a competition or going to a sleepaway camp this summer, you could take photos of your family and pets with you. Looking at them can remind you of everyone who cares about you.

Try sleeping outdoors, too.

Get set up

When you arrive at the sleepover, ask where you'll be sleeping and place your comfort items there. You can put your toothbrush in the bathroom so you feel settled when it's time to go to bed. Next, take a look around the area where you're staying. Look for the light switch so you know where it is if you need it later. Ask if there's a night light, if you'd like one. Find out where the bathroom is located. Getting settled when you arrive allows you to solve any worries you have so you can start having fun.

Start slowly

If you haven't stayed away from home very often or in a long time, consider first having a sleepover where you already feel comfortable. This could be with a family member, such as a cousin, or a best friend. A run-through can be especially helpful if you have a larger event—like an overnight field trip or sleepover party—coming up. Ask a parent if they can help you schedule a practice sleepover.

Ease homesickness

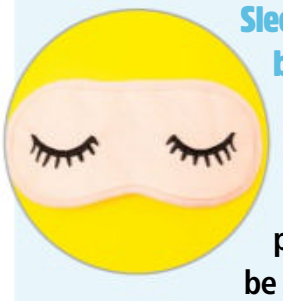
Even if you take these steps, you might still feel homesick when you're away. Homesickness is when you feel sad, or just not like yourself, because you miss your family and the familiarity of your own home. This is a common feeling. One way to help ease homesickness is to talk with a trusted adult. Before you go, ask your parent to give a heads-up to your friend's parent that you may feel homesick during the sleepover. Then, if you do, you know you have someone you can talk to. You may wind up not feeling homesick after all, but at least you were prepared!

4 games to try at a sleepover

These activities will have you laughing and smiling while you play them.

Flashlight tag

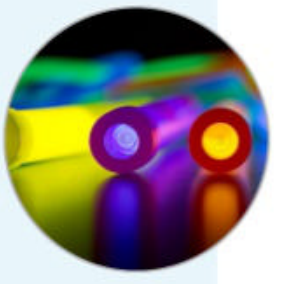
Turn out the lights in a large room. One player gets a flashlight and tries to find all the other players while they hide. The last player to be spotted with the flashlight wins.



Sleeping beauty

One person snuggles up and pretends to be asleep. Start a timer, then see how long it takes for everyone else to get them to laugh with silly jokes, noises, and more.

Glow bowling



Fill 10 plastic water bottles halfway with water, add a glowstick to each one, and screw on the caps. Set the bottles up in a triangle. Then turn the lights out and see who can knock them down by rolling a soccer ball.

Pillow fight

In an open space, set a timer for one minute. At the count of three, have all the guests begin gently tossing pillows at one another. (Be sure to aim below the shoulders.)

DID YOU KNOW?
Lunar New Year, which marks the start of the calendar year in many cultures around the world, starts on January 22 this year.

Cherry blossoms, a sign of new beginnings, are often used to decorate for Lunar New Year.

Celebrate Lunar New Year with a craft

What you need

- Tissue paper
- Pencil
- Round items to trace in a few sizes, such as coins, a spice jar lid, or a small juice cup
- Scissors
- Dull pencil
- Hot glue and gun (with adult supervision) or white glue
- Small branches with no leaves
- Small recycled jars, bottles, or vases

Instructions

1. Stack a few pieces of tissue paper together and, with a pencil, trace a variety of circles onto it using the round items. Cut the circles out, making sure to cut a few layers of the tissue circles at a time.

2. Take two circles of the same size and gently push the dull point of the pencil down into the center so the circle's edges come up and the center is pushed down.

3. Remove the pencil. Twist the pointy bottom of the tissue paper, created by the pencil, from underneath so the two layers are twisted together at the center. Pinch the pointy bottom with your fingernails and twist more until the layers are really twisted together. You've made a blossom!

4. While holding the twisted bottom securely, use your fingers to separate the layers of tissue paper to open up the petals if you'd like.

5. Repeat to make as many blossoms as you'd like.

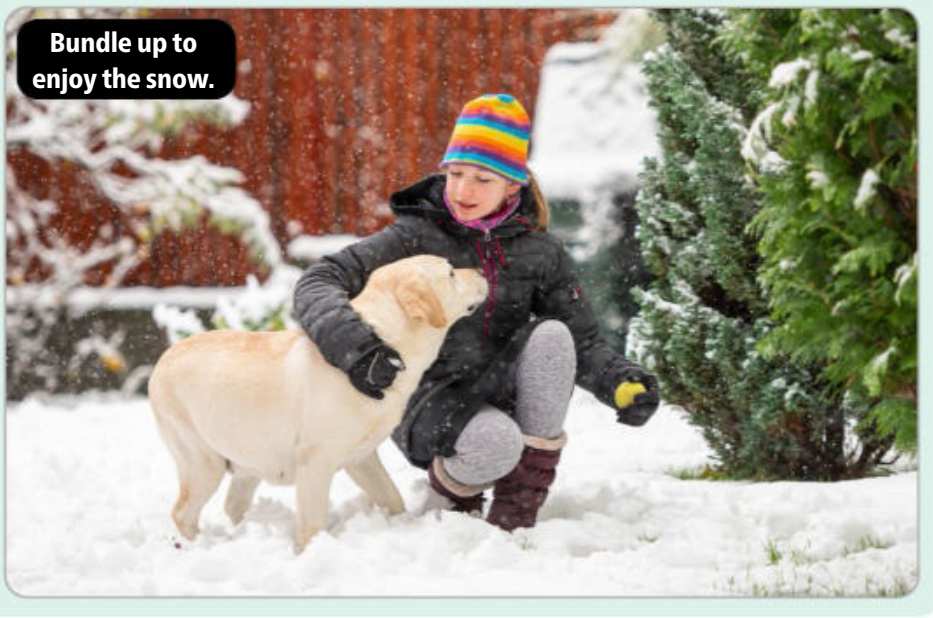
6. Adhere the blossoms all over the branches, gluing the smaller blossoms to the tips of the branches and adding larger ones to the thicker part of the branches. Leave the thicker end of the branch free of petals, since you will place that part into a container.

7. Display your cherry blossom branches standing up in small jars, bottles, or vases.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

SPEND MORE TIME OUTSIDE THIS YEAR

Being outdoors—whether playing in the snow or going to a playground—has many benefits. It can boost your mood, help you stay more active, and give you an appreciation for the natural world. This year, consider making a commitment to spend more time outdoors. You can do this on your own or with friends and family. For instance, you could try walking to school more often or asking your teacher if you can go outside for recess, even when it's chilly out. You can also consider joining the 1,000 Hours Outside Challenge. The aim is to spend 1,000 hours outside, and people worldwide have tried it. Find out more at 1000hoursoutside.com.



Bundle up to enjoy the snow.

JODI LEVINE FOR SUPERMAKEIT; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzles

Crisscross

Each of these things that are loud fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

5 letters
DRUMS
SIREN
STORM

6 letters
CANNON
SCREAM

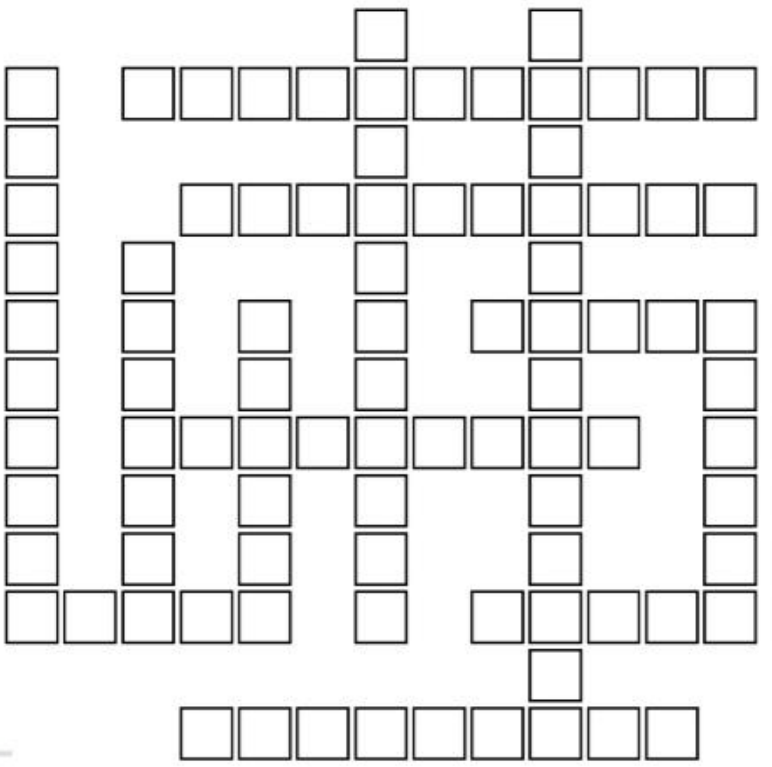
7 letters
ROOSTER

9 letters
FIREWORKS
SONIC BOOM

10 letters
SMOKE ALARM
SPORTS FANS

11 letters
ACTION MOVIE
ROCK CONCERT

13 letters
ROLLER COASTER



Take five

Five 5-letter things that are white are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?

C	E	G	O	L
P	G	E	A	O
I	L	A	U	H
T	U	L	R	D
S	E	O	T	R

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters W-I-N. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. Chilly season of the year — W I N ☐ ☐ ☐
2. Shine like a little star — ☐ W I N ☐ ☐ ☐
3. Scientist Charles known for his theory of evolution — ☐ ☐ ☐ W I N
4. Game of flipping plastic disks — ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ W I N ☐ ☐
5. Pane of glass that a driver looks through — W I N ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

			5		3
		6			
	6				5
3				2	
			4		
1		2			

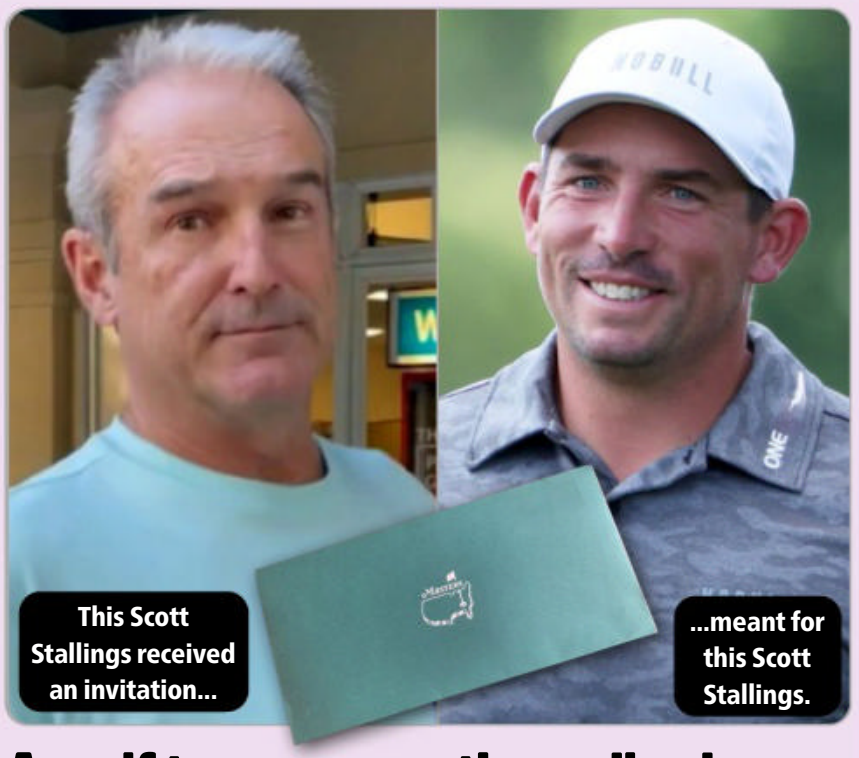
Spot the difference

These two pictures of cherry blossoms appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

All the same hint: Word 4 contains a double D.

That's unbelievable!

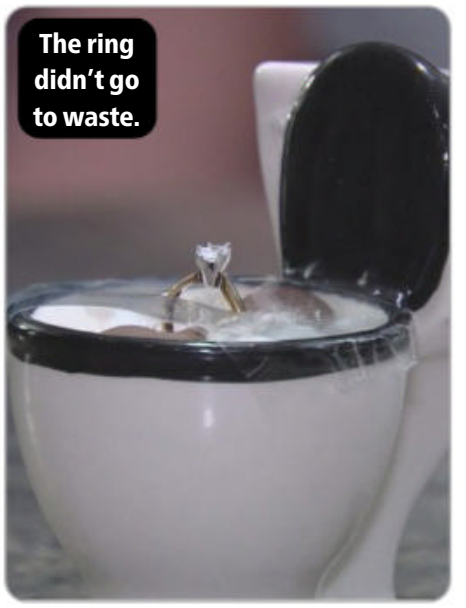


A golf tournament's mail mix-up

Scott Stallings is a top golfer on the Professional Golf Association (PGA) Tour. But when invitations were sent out for the prestigious Masters tournament at Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, a different Scott Stallings was shocked to find an invite in his mailbox. The other Scott Stallings lives in Georgia, and his wife shares the name of the golfer's wife. "This is not for me," he said. He reached out to the athlete, who invited him to attend the tournament's practice rounds.

An engagement potty

A Florida woman's lost engagement ring was found again after more than 20 years. Two decades ago, Shaina Day was visiting the parents of her future husband when she accidentally flushed her engagement ring along with some toilet paper. Efforts to find the ring were futile—until the parents recently replaced their toilet, revealing the jewelry lodged inside it. They cleaned the ring and gave it to the couple as a Christmas gift.



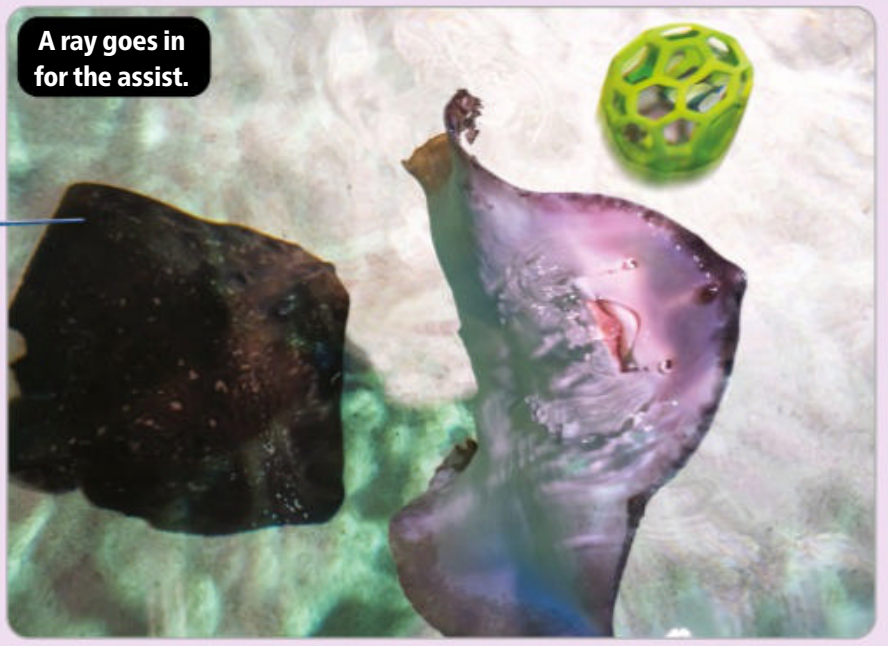
Baby beats the odds

It was already amazing that married couple Cassidy and Dylan Scott of Alabama shared the same birthday, December 18. Then their baby, Lennon, was born at 12:30 am on December 18, 2022. The odds of a child sharing a birthday with both parents are about 133,000 to 1. As for the newborn, Cassidy said, "She's perfect."

Real or fake?

All aboard the new Super Sub

Imagine traveling nearly 1,000 feet below the surface of the ocean with a clear view of the underwater world. A Dutch company has designed a powerful new submarine that can take a pilot and two passengers on an undersea ride lasting up to eight hours. The Super Sub travels as fast as a dolphin, can make steep climbs and dives, and sells for $5.8 million. What do you think? Is this vessel for real, or are we watering down the truth?*



Stingrays flaunt their soccer skills

As the FIFA World Cup was being played in Qatar last month, an underwater soccer game took place at the Sea Life London Aquarium. Six stingrays showed off their moves by playing with a ball full of fish. Using teamwork and their sense of smell, the rays passed the ball around, making the fish fall out so they could be gobbled up. Staff said the game was "a fun and stimulating way for the rays to eat" while exercising skills they would use in the wild.

*Reall The 21-foot-long sub is made by a company called U-Boat Worx. It can travel up to 11.5 miles per hour, which is about two miles an hour faster than a bottlenose dolphin's average swimming speed.

ON THIS PAGE: SCOTT STALLINGS; GETTY IMAGES; MASTERS TOURNAMENT; WFLA; HUNTSVILLE HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN & CHILDREN; SEA LIFE LONDON AQUARIUM; U-BOAT WORX/SWNS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (3)

Editor's note

We are excited to send you this week's issue—the first we've produced in 2023! It's packed with stories to keep you informed about what's going on in the world, including the start of the 118th Congress and its unusual voting for Speaker of the House (p2), the encouraging update on the health of pro football player Damar Hamlin (p4), and the new study about a dinosaur's powerful tail (p14). This issue also includes a roundup of some of the covers you told us you liked best from 2022 (see the next page). It's always fun to find out your favorites! This week we also announce a new way for you to connect with us and have your opinions featured in *The Week Junior.* We want to know what movies and TV shows you would recommend to other kids your age. Get the details on page 21 and send your suggestions to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. We're eager to hear from you!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Project Linus

This organization provides handmade blankets to children in need. More than 80,000 volunteers create the blankets that get donated to children who may have a serious illness or are coping with trauma. The group's local chapters host blanket-making events across the US to help bring communities together. Since 1995, it has donated more than 9 million blankets to children. Find out more at projectlinus.org. Project ♥ Linus

Making birthday bags for kids

Camille, 10, Georgia

"I wanted to bring some joy to kids in need, so I started Birthday Bags! Birthday Bags are bags that I fill with fun birthday surprises, such as cake mix, frosting, candles, decorations, a gift, and so much more! I began delivering them to food banks in Georgia and Florida, and now I have sent them to 39 other US states. I also have sent them to South Africa, the UK, and Australia. I have created more than 600 bags. I sell bath bombs and soap through my business The Gift of Joy, and all the money goes to making the bags. Other people have sponsored Birthday Bags to help me pay for them. I have delivered the bags on my birthday for the past three years to approximately 200 kids each year! I believe every child deserves to be celebrated!"

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

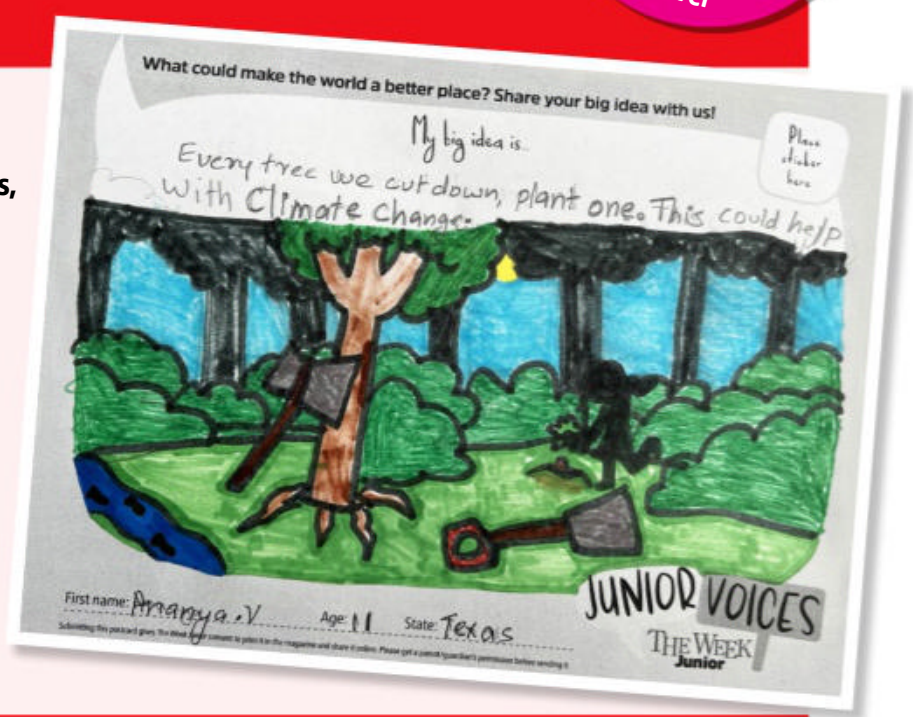
What has a bed but never sleeps and has a mouth but never eats?

A river

JUNIOR VOICES

Share your idea!

We know you have amazing ideas, and we want to hear them. To take part in Junior Voices, download and print a postcard at kids.theweekjunior.com/juniorvoices. Write or draw your idea for making the world a better place, and have an adult email it to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Every idea counts! We'll feature kids' ideas on this page in future issues.



THE WEEK Junior **IT'S YOUR TURN** Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com.*

Your turn

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Send them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you'd like to tell us about what's in the photo.

"Fun and amazing! The peppermint cookies were delicious!"
Lilah, 9, and Ethan, 11, South Carolina

"We made the molasses cookies from your December 16 issue!"
Estelle, 9, and Phoenix, 9, Hawaii

"We made the snowmoji cookies and loved them!"
Grace, 10, Scott, 8, and Claire, 6, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Schwartz**

School: **Clark Mills School**

"Mrs. Schwartz is the best teacher ever! She's funny and sweet and explains all the math and science work really well. I wish I could never leave fifth grade because of her! We get along super well and have lots of laughs together. All the same to my reading teacher. You guys are amazing!"

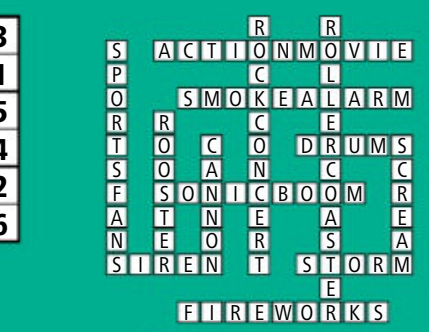
Lily, 10, New Jersey

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week! Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)

4	2	1	5	6	3
5	3	6	2	4	1
2	6	4	1	3	5
3	1	5	6	2	4
6	5	3	4	1	2
1	4	2	3	5	6



Take five
cloud
pearl
igloo
teeth
sugar

All the same
1. winter
2. twinkle
3. Darwin
4. tiddlywinks
5. windshield

Quiz answers (from page 30)
1 True **2** "Hollywood Cat" **3** a) Ankylosaurs **4** Brazil **5** True **6** a) The Land of Dragons **7** True **8** 18 **9** True **10** a) $3.1 billion **11** Cats & Soup **12** False. It protects sharks from being hunted for their fins. **13** c) Lindsey Vonn **14** a) 1856 **15** Mickey Mouse

POPJAM

Sign up and follow @theweekjuniorus on PopJam, a social media platform for kids 7–12. Ask an adult to download the app from iTunes or Google Play.

We asked: Which is your favorite cover from 2022?

"Issue 99: A Call for Peace"

"Issue 101: Found!"

"Issue 105: A New Justice"

"Issue 107: Bobcat Surprise"

"Issue 115: Fenway"

"Issue 116/117: Chocolate or Vanilla?"

"Issue 132: Having Your Say"

"Issue 137: Protecting Penguins"

"Issue139: Goal!"

Now tell us: Who is your favorite Disney character and why?

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 True or false? The 2009 movie *Avatar* made more money than any film in history.

True ☐ False ☐

2 A beloved mountain lion in Los Angeles, named P-22, was also known by what name?

---

3 What type of dinosaurs may have used their club-like tails to fight with each other?

a) Ankylosaurs b) Diplodocus

c) Apatosaurus

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

4 Pelé, the soccer legend who won three World Cups, was from what country?

---

5 True or false? Marsupials can form long-term relationships with one another.

True ☐ False ☐

6 In the book *Heroes of Havensong: Dragonboy*, where does the village Gerbera send its king every 25 years?

a) The Land of Dragons b) The Land of Orcs

c) The Land of Monsters

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

7 True or false? People have donated more than $8.7 million to the charity started by Buffalo Bills player Damar Hamlin.

True ☐ False ☐

8 How old is Jaylen Smith, the youngest Black mayor elected in US history?

5

1

12

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

4

10

9 True or false? A study found that girls were more interested in science when they pretended to be a famous scientist.

True ☐ False ☐

10 About how much does NASA spend every year to operate the International Space Station?

a) $3.1 billion b) $4.1 billion c) $5.1 billion

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 What's the name of the new Netflix mobile game in which players help cats make food?

---

12 True or false? A new international agreement aims to protect sharks from being hunted for their teeth.

True ☐ False ☐

13 Mikaela Shiffrin tied with which other American skier for most downhill World Cup wins by a woman?

a) Julia Mancuso b) Nina O'Brien

c) Lindsey Vonn

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 In what year did it take 133 votes to elect the Speaker of the House?

a) 1856 b) 1923 c) 1956

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

15 Who was the star character of Walt and Roy Disney's breakthrough animated short film, *Steamboat Willie*?

THE WEEK Junior

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